Teri Hice, Project Manager Deadman's Basin Water Users' Association

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May 26, 2014

Dear Mr. Ruggles,

The Deadman's Basin Water Users' Association fully supports the Future Fisheries grant application for the construction of a rock ramp diversion dam with fish passage at the Deadman's Basin diversion dam site.

The proposed replacement design is 90% complete and includes a sloped and grouted rock ramp with fish passage as well as a gated sluice way for passing sediment. The new structure will be beter suited to withstand flood events and provide safer conditions for boat passage. The final design will consist of individually placed rocks including resting pools and appropriate depths to accommodate fish passage for the target species specified by the Billings FWP Office.

In addition to the rock ramp project, DBWUA has also committed to replacing the existing diversion headgates to greatly reduce seepage into the Inlet canal when the gates are closed. This could leave as much as 20 cfs instream that previously leaked into the canal.

We look forward not only to constructing this new, innovative desing as a tremendous improvement to our system, but also as a demonstration project to be shared with others within the Musselshell River Basin and irigation projects across the state.

We strongly support this project and greatly appreciate your consideration. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Teri Hice, Project Manager